

*Reasons humbly Offered to the Lords Spiritual and Temporal  
assembled in the High Court of Parliament against the  
Revival of an Act for Transportation of Leather.* 574

Obj. 1. **W** Hereas it is pretended in a Bill before this Honourable House, that a late Act of Parliament in the Twentieth Year of his Majesties Reign, hath been found very beneficial to the King and Kingdome, and that great quantities of Raw Hides did come in then from foreign parts, and were tanned and again exported.

*Ans<sup>r</sup>. I.* That this is a great mistake, for we can make it appear that far greater quantities were imported and manufactured here before the said Act, and as by Certificate does plainly appear, eight times more since the expiration thereof, than did when the late Act was in force, and since it does appear by Certificates, that so many more Raw Hides are imported and here Tanned, it will certainly follow, that more Bark will be spent in time of Prohibition than in time of Transportation.

II. That whereas it is farther pretended that the Foreign Hides that were Imported, were Tanned and Exported again, it is most evident that the best only of our own were Exported, and those Foreign Hides (which are far worse) left for our use, to the great prejudice of the Kingdom.

Obj. 2. And whereas it is pretended that importation and exportation will be an encouragement to navigation.

*Ans<sup>r</sup>. I.* That this pretence hath no Foundation, for this reason, because upon a due examination by Certificates, both of the wrought Ware and Calve-skins that are permitted by the Law, in time of Prohibition to be exported, and the Tanned Leather unwrought, in the time of the late Act to Export, it doth appear by a Just Computation, that there went not out, in one year, one Cart Load more in bulk and weight, than the wrought Wares and Calve-Skins did amount to in the time of Prohibition, and that in value there went out, in time of Prohibition, several thousand pounds worth more than all the Leather and Manufactured Ware did amount to, in the time of Liberty, to Export Leather unmanufactured; and if so, we humbly submit, whether this will advance Navigation, or prove beneficial to the Kingdom.

II. Another Reason is that all Foreign parts may, and do Import what quantities of Raw Hides and Tanned Leather they please, in time of Prohibition as well as in the time of Liberty to Export Leather unwrought, and that we do work up all our own Leather, and the greatest part of all Foreign Hides too, and Export it in made Wares, which yieldeth above twice as much as Leather sent out unwrought, and that the Manufacturers of Leather do consume great quantities of Pitch, Hemp, Flax, Oyl, Tallow, Colours, and some of all other Commodities Imported here, and so consequently are great encouragers of Navigation.

Obj. 3. It is pretended it will very much tend to the advance of His Majesties Customs.

*Ans<sup>r</sup>. I.* That it doth plainly appear from the Custom House Books, that His Majesty did lose above eighteen hundred pounds *per Annum*, out of this Port of London, in His Customs; and if so much in this Port, we humbly leave to your Honours how much in the whole Nation.

II. That since it does appear that the King will lose so much a year in His Customs, and that the Nation will lose, in every 100 *l.* worth of Leather unwrought, more than double the value, and many thousands of poor Families will be utterly ruined if this passeth, and the French and others will have the benefit of Manufacturing of our Leather, and it will only be beneficial to a very few French and Bristol Merchants, whether this will not prove very injurious to the publick.

III. That the value of the Hide is but the tenth part of the Beast, and whether there may not be far more loss in the Carkas of the Beast, by the discouragement of the Manufacturers, than can be supposed to be gained in the advance of the Hide; an instance of which will plainly appear by Ireland, where they Export all sorts of Raw and Tanned Hides, there the flesh or Carkas yieldeth but a very low rate.

*These Reasons, with many more that may be offered, being considered in your Great Wisdoms, we hope you will see cause to dismiss this Bill.* B<sup>5</sup> 13-71

